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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/671,659

09/29/2003

Chun Te Yu

EL-CFP00414

8271

25864

7590

02/02/2007

CHARLES C.H. WU

98 DISCOVERY

IRVINE, CA 92618-3105

EXAMINER

GALL, LLOYD A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3676

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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3 MONTHS

02/02/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/671,659

Applicant(s)

YU, CHUN TE

Examiner

Lloyd A. Gall

Art Unit

3676

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 November 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 13, 15 and 24-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 13, 15 and 24-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 27-29 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 05 December 2006 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

At the outset, applicant should note that the drawing corrections filed on December 5, 2006 are not approved, since the corrections are not labeled as "Replacement Sheet" as required by 37 CFR 1.121.

The petition under 37 CFR 1.48 filed on October 24, 2006 is GRANTED. The inventorship of the application will be corrected to add the additional inventor.

Claims 13, 24 and 27-29 are objected to because of the following informalities: In claim 13, line 13, "in order said block" is grammatically incorrect. See also claim 24, line 20. In claim 27, line 2, "defines" should read --defining--. See also claim 28, line 2 and claim 29, line 2. In claim 27, line 5, "where" should read --which--. See also claim 28, line 5 and claim 29, line 5. Appropriate correction is required.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Loughlin (324) in view of Fleming et al (866).

Loughlin (324) teaches, and in relying upon its provisional application 60/470,999, as seen in figs. 5a and 5b, a padlock with a combination lock 14 controlling movement of the longer shackle leg in its channel, and a second channel receiving the block 32 having a receptacle 34 to control unlocking movement of the shorter leg of the shackle, the block having an engaging portion which includes the receptacle 34 and its laterally

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extending gap, and a mounting portion (not shown) under the engaging portion which is coupled to the key lock, wherein as disclosed in paragraph 0137 on page 11, the block may be key actuated from the bottom of the padlock body, and includes a connection between the block 32 and the first locking means key plug. The gap of the engaging portion has a width larger than a diameter of the shorter arm of the shackle. The longer arm of the shackle is controlled by a second combination locking means 14. As seen in figs. 14-18, Fleming et al teaches a well known key lock 95 to block 88 connection, including a body 95 in fig. 18 having a rotor therein with a keyhole at a bottom end thereof for being engaged with a key, and a driving rod 87 extending from the second end of the rotor to be engaged with a mounting portion slot of the block 88. It would have been obvious to modify the key lock to block 32 connection of Loughlin to include a rotor having a keyhole at its bottom end to receive a key and a driving rod extending from the second end of the rotor to be engaged with a mounting portion of the block 32, in view of the teaching of Fleming et al, the motivation being to ensure simultaneous rotation of the block 32 of Loughlin with rotation of its key lock.

Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Loughlin in view of Fleming et al as applied to claim 13 above, and further in view of either Manteufel (379) or Wittwer (348).

As seen in fig. 2, Manteufel teaches a driving rod connection having two plates 34' to engage two sockets 32. As seen in fig. 10, Wittwer teaches two a driving rod connection including two plates 40 to engage corresponding sockets at 39. It would have been obvious to modify the driving rod connection of Loughlin as modified by

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Fleming et al, to include a second plate to engage a corresponding second socket, in view of the teaching of either Manteufel or Wittwer, the motivation being to ensure simultaneous rotation of the block 32 of Loughlin with the rotation of its key lock.

Claims 24 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Loughlin (324) in view of Fleming et al and Strathmann (558).

Loughlin (324) teaches, and in relying upon its provisional application 60/470,999, as seen in figs. 5a and 5b, a padlock with a combination lock 14 controlling movement of the longer shackle leg in its channel, and a second channel receiving the block 32 having a receptacle 34 to control unlocking movement of the shorter leg of the shackle, the block having an engaging portion which includes the receptacle 34 and its laterally extending gap, and a mounting portion (not shown) under the engaging portion which is coupled to the key lock, wherein as disclosed in paragraph 0137 on page 11, the block may be key actuated from the bottom of the padlock body, and includes a connection between the block 32 and the first locking means key plug. The gap of the engaging portion has a width larger than a diameter of the shorter arm of the shackle. The longer arm of the shackle is controlled by a second combination locking means 14. As seen in figs. 14-18, Fleming et al teaches a well known key lock 95 to block 88 connection, including a body 95 in fig. 18 having a rotor therein with a keyhole at a bottom end thereof for being engaged with a key, and a driving rod 87 extending from the second end of the rotor to be engaged with a mounting portion slot of the block 88. Strathmann teaches a connection between a key lock and a block 16, 19, including a driving rod 21 extending from a key rotor to engage a socket 20 of the block 16, 19, wherein the block

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16, 19 includes a neck of a smaller diameter between mounting portion 19 and the engaging portion 16. It would have been obvious to modify the key lock to block 32 connection of Loughlin to include a rotor having a keyhole at its bottom end to receive a key and a driving rod extending from the second end of the rotor to be engaged with a mounting portion of the block 32, in view of the teaching of Fleming et al, the motivation being to ensure simultaneous rotation of the block 32 of Loughlin with rotation of its key lock. It would have been obvious to modify the block of Loughlin as modified by Fleming et al to include a smaller diameter neck portion between its mounting portion and its engaging portion, in view of the teaching of Strathmann, the motivation being to serve as a guide for ensuring the proper rotation of the block of Loughlin when it is rotated by its key lock.

Claim 26 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Loughlin in view of Fleming et al and Strathmann as applied to claim 24 above, and further in view of either Manteufel or Wittwer.

As seen in fig. 2, Manteufel teaches a driving rod connection having two plates 34' to engage two sockets 32. As seen in fig. 10, Wittwer teaches two a driving rod connection including two plates 40 to engage corresponding sockets at 39. It would have been obvious to modify the driving rod connection of Loughlin as modified by Fleming et al and Strathmann, to include a second plate to engage a corresponding second socket, in view of the teaching of either Manteufel or Wittwer, the motivation being to ensure simultaneous rotation of the block 32 of Loughlin with the rotation of its key lock.

Claims 27-29 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 13, 15 and 24-26 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lloyd A. Gall whose telephone number is 571-272-7056. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Glessner can be reached on 571-272-6843. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

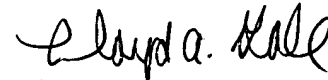
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January 31, 2007

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lloyd A. Gall". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lloyd" and last name "Gall" clearly distinguishable.

Lloyd A. Gall
Primary Examiner